(Ireland.)

KERRY ROAD.

COPY OF THE REPORT of Mr. NIMMO to Mr. GALLOWAY, dated 1st March 1824, on the subject of the Road through *Glenbegh* and County of *Kerry*.

PURSUANT to the instructions conveyed in the letter from the Secretary to the Commissioners for the issue of money, I examined, in my visit to the coast of Kerry, that part of the Road into Iveragh, which has been made through the valley of Glenbegh, connecting the new line, along the foot of Drung Mountain, with the level Road near the Bog of Castlemain and low country of Kerry.

I find the whole of this line has been extremely well formed and gravelled, and, in general, well fenced and drained, and that it is now ready for the use of the Public.

Near the west end of the line there are some perches of upper drain wanting, and the fences in many parts are slight, but these objections are of minor importance, seeing that from the care which the contractors have taken of the former portion of Road executed by them, which, after three years service, is now in very good order, I can have no doubt of the particulars I pointed out to them being properly attended to.

Several good rubble stone bridges have been executed on this line, one in particular over the Begh River, above forty feet span; but I am inclined to think the lower part of the line has been kept on too low a level, and some of the smaller bridges, these being built on the gravel, run a risk of being choaked by the mountain torrents, so that it will be necessary strictly to attend to them for some seasons and have the channels properly opened.

The portion of the former contract, between the head of Glenbegh and the old Drung Road, has been corrected, as directed in a former Report of mine; also the junction with Lord Headley's Road, and which has been two years in use, so that the balance due by the overseers to the contractors on that account, viz. £. 94. 2*s*. should be paid, in addition to the balance on the Glenbegh line, of £. 348. 1*s*. And I would beg to repeat the recommendation I formerly made, as to having this Road placed under a constant system of superintendence; for, like all mountain Roads, it may, if not attended to, "be exposed to great and sudden injury."

I cannot conclude this Report without alluding to the rapid improvement which is taking place in the barony of Iveragh since the construction of this Road.

A few years ago there was hardly a plough, car, or carriage of any kind; the butter, the only produce, was carried to Cork on horseback; there was not a decent public-house, and I think only one house slated and plastered in the village

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village of Caherseveen; the rest, a few scattered thatched cabins; the nearest post-office thirty miles distant.

Since the new Road was made, there are, in three years, built upwards of twenty respectable two story houses, slated and plastered, with good sash windows. More than an equal number of new lots are taken; for one house the owner demands £.40. rent. A respectable shop, with cloth, hardware, and groceries; a comfortable inn, with six bed rooms and six horse stable; a post office, bridewell, new chapel; a quay which is covered with limestone, brought as a return freight for slates, this barony having no limestone in itself; a salt work; two stores preparing for purchasing oats, and a considerable traffic in linen and yarn. There are, perhaps, forty cars and carts, and a resident gentleman's coach; and it is remarkable, that all this is the result of the individual enterprize of the inhabitants, without any assistance of the proprietor; the ground is either college or glebe land. Nor has any public assistance been obtained, excepting for the quay, which was built by the Board of Fishery, and the bridewell and new road by the county.

I have no doubt of the continuance of the prosperity of this place, and of the consequent improvement of the whole barony.

(signed) *Alexander Nimmo*,
March 1st, 1824.

Office of the Commissioners for the issue of money out of the Consolidated Fund, } 20th April 1824.
John Galloway, Secretary.

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REPORT of Mr. NIMMO to Mr. GALLOWAY, dated 1st March 1824, on the subject of the Road through *Glenbegh* and County of *Kerry*.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
4 *May* 1824.

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